

**Tuesdays with Tammy Nevada Libraries Forum**  
from  
**Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records**  
10 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
Tuesday  
October 20, 2020

Attending: Tammy Westergard, Sulin Jones, Norma Fowler, Bruce Douglass, Betts Markle, NSLAPR; Guest speakers – Christina Barr and Stephanie Gibson, Nevada Humanities; Kim Diehm, Boulder City; Diane Baker, Tod Colegrove, Carson City; Carol Lloyd, Churchill County; Joy Gunn, Henderson; Jessica Anderson, Humboldt County; Danielle Milam, LVCCLD; Forrest Lewis, North Las Vegas; Amy Bruno, Susan Wonderly, Pahrump; Kathie Brinkerhoff, Pershing County; Emily Giles, Joan Dalusung, Washoe County; Cyndi O, NV CoOp; Lara Katrina Schott, Sierra Nevada College; Maggie Farrell, UNLV; Nancy Schmidt, SCLL.



## **WHAT PEOPLE ARE THINKING RIGHT NOW**



### **Strengths:**

- Libraries are flexible in times of crisis.
- Libraries provide essential services for their communities.
- Libraries are recognized as a solution to helping families and communities.
- Libraries have a natural partnership with Nevada Humanities and Nevada Reads.



### **Struggles:**

- Struggling to maintain services while keeping a safe work environment.
- Finding ways to assist their communities during the COVID19 pandemic and economic downturn.
- Libraries continue to find the best way to provide services to their communities.



### **Opportunities**

- Being clever, creative, and sustainable during these times creates support among communities we serve.
- Serving as polling locations raises libraries' visibility
- Providing resources and support to businesses adapting to effects of the pandemic helps the community as well as the businesses



## Trends

- Libraries continue providing digital services and devices to increase access for families and individuals in the community.
- Stronger alliances and partnerships with cultural organizations.
- Libraries are gradually increasing public access to their facilities

### Announcements:

- Webinars involving customer service and Mental Wellness are posted on our site: <https://nsla.nv.gov/COVID19/10MinuteWellness> .
- Save the Date: Las Vegas Book Festival will be held virtually, October 19-24 <https://lasvegasbookfestival.com/schedule>

### Guest Speakers: Christina Barr and Stephanie Gibson, Nevada Humanities

- Nevada Humanities produces and supports humanities-based, educational, and cultural programs that articulate the Nevada experience, feature local culture and heritage, and facilitate the investigation of ideas that matter to the people of Nevada and their communities.
- We partner with 100+ agencies and organizations across Nevada and our programs reach over 1 million to 2 million people each year.
- Since COVID 19, much of our work has pivoted to online programming, which has shifted how we approach engaging the public: 2020 Las Vegas Book Festival is virtual; large increase in use of our online Nevada Encyclopedia of Nevada history <https://www.Onlinenevada.org> ; began Humanities Heart to Heart, collecting essays by Nevadans sharing stories about their lives during COVID19 <https://www.nevadahumanities.org/humanities-heart-to-heart>
- Allocated \$400,000.00 in CARES Act funding through the National Endowment of the Humanities to 45 non-profit organizations from around the state over the summer.
- Center for the Book allows us to focus on specific thematic ideas for programs on books and literature. Three main focus areas for Center for the Book: National Book Festival that represents an Nevada author; Letters about Literature (currently suspended); and the Nevada Reads program
- Nevada Reads is a One Book-One State program in which people throughout the state read the same book. Books are chosen by a selection committee which chooses both a fiction and nonfiction book based upon a major theme that will generate discussion
- The 2020 theme was the economy and chosen in Fall 2019. The non-fiction book chosen was "Nomadland: Surviving America in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" by Jessica Broder. The fiction title chosen was "Severance" by Ling Ma.
- Because of the pandemic, "Severance Radio" was born and built a radio program around broadcasting readings of the book with commentary and discussions.
- Thanks to Cyndi O and CoOP for getting digital copies using Overdrive, which led to unlimited downloads resulting close to 17,000 downloads for both books.
- We see solidarity in missions with libraries to get this information out there and continue this relationship in the future.
- Because of COVID19, there is an opportunity to rethink our relevance and rebuild our organization in helping Nevada through program grants.

- Looking forward, we are laying the groundwork for dealing with publishers over royalties, copyrights, and getting the rights and determining the length of time for distribution.
- Nevada Humanities and Libraries have a natural strong partnership.
- Nevada Reads 2021 theme will deal with climate change and all that entails.

#### Libraries in the News:

- Press Conference with Governor Sisolak, Nevada State School Superintendent Jhone Ebert and NLA President Forrest Lewis regarding Summer Reading - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-smM2SCYYRU&t=1184s>
- In Las Vegas Clark County Library District, Employ NV business hub opening tomorrow at the Sahara West library. Our expanded partnership with Workforce Connections will focus on business support for startups, expansions, and those businesses navigating pandemic disruptions.
- Early voting in Washoe County <https://thisisreno.com/2020/10/washoe-early-voting-off-to-a-busy-start>
- Early voting in Nevada <https://thenevadaindependent.com/article/in-long-nevada-early-voting-lines-enthusiasm-and-a-sense-of-elections-high-stakes>